

TOMORROW!

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on the occasion of
Independence & Army day

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Prince Fahd leaves to Washington to discuss M.E., bilateral ties

LONDON, May 23 (R). — Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia left here by air today for Washington for talks with President Carter on the Arab-Israeli dispute, oil questions and other major Middle East developments.

Mr. Carter has won favour in Arab countries for his recent pronouncements about the need for a homeland for the Palestinian people.

But, following the Israeli election victory of a hardline rightwinger, Mr. Menachem Begin, Prince Fahd is expected to ask whether the United States can be sure that the Israelis would meet the Arabs at a peace conference in Geneva or make any concessions if they do.

U.S. relations with Saudi Arabia and other Arab states might be seriously affected if President Carter does not exert American influence on Israel over the Palestinian homeland issue.

The Lebanese newspaper Al Anwar in an interview published this weekend quoted Prince Fahd as saying that Saudi Arabia was ready to raise its oil prices gradually to bring them into line with the OPEC majority by the end of this year.

Besides war, peace and oil, the main issues in Prince Fahd's talks are expected to be arms sales, on which President Carter announced new restrictions last week, and the Arab boycott of companies trading with Israel.

Crown Prince Fahd is coming here fresh from summit talks in Riyadh between King Khalid and the leaders of Egypt and Syria, two of the confrontation states.

Previous calculations about Israel's response to a Carter administration initiative for peace now seem likely to be invalidated by the election victory of Mr. Begin.

In a related development from Amman, the daily newspaper Al Dustour quoted Palestinian sources in Damascus as saying that Palestinian leaders have delivered a memorandum to Prince Fahd setting out the Palestine Liberation Organisation terms for Middle East peace.

The newspaper said the memorandum contained the PLO views on a political settlement, the Geneva peace conference and the establishment of a Palestinian state.



His Majesty King Hussein and Sultan Qabus listen to a presentation of the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces during their visit to the Armed Forces H.Q. in Amman, Monday.

King Hussein, Sultan Qabus visit Army H.Q.

AMMAN (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein accompanied his royal guest, Sultan Qabus Ibn Said Al Taymour, on a visit to the Armed Forces headquarters Monday noon. Their Majesties were briefed by the assistant chief of staff for operations on the army's organisation, its duties and responsibilities.

They afterwards visited the Royal Medical Services Department and were briefed by its Director, Maj. Gen. Daoud Hanania, on the Al Hussein Medical City's various sections and activities, in particular the cardiology section.

Sultan Qabus said he would cover the cost of the establishment of a cardiology institute, plans for which had been drawn up upon the request of His Majesty King Hussein.

Their Majesties were accompanied by Prime Minister Mu'awad Badran, the Chief of the Royal Court, Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, Lt. Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, and the Minister of Court, Mr. Amer Khammash.

King Hussein to preside over military parade tomorrow

AMMAN (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein will preside over a military parade Wednesday at 10:30 on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee, and Jordan's Independence and Army Day.

A reception will also be held by the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, Lt. Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, at Al Hussein Youth City Tuesday evening at 19:30.

Two Royal decrees were issued Monday promoting a large number of army officers and bestowing decorations on others.

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Carter: U.S. is taking steps to improve peace chances in M.E.

WASHINGTON, May 23 (R). — U.S. President Jimmy Carter said yesterday that the U.S. is taking deliberate steps to improve the chances of lasting peace in the Middle East.

In a speech at a graduation ceremony at Notre Dame University, Mr. Carter said that through his wide-ranging consultations with Mideast leaders "we have found some areas of agreement and some movement towards consensus. The negotiations must continue."

"Through my public comments, I have also tried to suggest a more flexible framework for the discussion of the three key issues which have so far been intractable: the nature of a comprehensive peace, the relationship between security and borders, and the issue of the Palestinian homeland," he said.

"The historic friendship between the United States and Israel is not dependent on domestic politics in either nation; it is derived from our common respect for human freedom and from our common search for permanent peace. We will continue to promote a settlement which all of us need. Our own policy will not be affected by changes in leadership in any of the countries in the Middle East. Therefore, we expect Israel and her neighbors to continue to be bound by U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, which they have previously accepted."

"This may be the most propitious time for a genuine settlement since the beginning of the Arab-Israeli conflict. To let this opportunity pass could mean a disaster, not only for the Middle East, but perhaps for the international political and economic order as well," he said.

U.S. policy would now be based on "a new world-wide mosaic of global, regional and bilateral interests."

The president listed the five basic premises of his four-month-old administration's foreign policy as:

-- Reaffirmation of America's commitments to human rights.

-- Moves to reinforce the bonds among democratic nations.

-- Moves to engage the Soviet Union in a joint effort to halt the spread of nuclear weapons.

-- The president also reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to a strong NATO as part of his country's alliance with the industrialised democracies.

-- Steps to improve the chances of a lasting peace in the Middle East.

-- An attempt, "even at the risk of some friction with our friends," to reduce the threat of nuclear proliferation and the world-wide spread of conventional weapons.

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Guingaud hopeful over M.E. peace conference

PARIS, MAY 22 (R). — French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud today joined U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in hoping that an Arab-Israeli peace conference could still be held this autumn. "I can only rally to statements made by Mr. Vance and Mr. Gromyko who confirmed that the Geneva conference would be held this autumn," he said. "That's a hope, not a certainty," he added. M. de Guiringaud, who was addressing members of the French-Arab Press Association, declined to comment on the outcome of the Israeli elections.

Arafat says in Paris Israel is preparing for military attack on Arabs

CAIRO, May 23 (R). — Mr. Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, said in an interview that Israel was preparing for a military attack on the Arabs, the Egyptian Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported from Paris yesterday.

In the interview with the magazine Al Dustour, Mr. Arafat called for preparedness to counter such a surprise attack, MENA reported.

It said Mr. Arafat expressed doubt about the reconvening of the Geneva Middle East peace conference this year.

He said that even if the meeting took place, "the Israelis will spit out their venom to play for time," MENA reported.

Mr. Arafat declared: "What was taken by force must be regained by force," a motto current in the Arab World after the Arab-Israeli 1967 war.

Welcoming President Carter's statements on the creation of a Palestinian homeland, the PLO leader said: "For the first time an American president speaks about a home for the Palestinians and we consider this a step forward."

But he added: "What is important is the implementation, which needs a big effort and a hard struggle because words do not establish a home."

In Abu Dhabi, Mr. Arafat, has briefed President Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on the Middle East situation following the victory of the rightwing Likud bloc in Israel's general election.

During their meeting last night he also briefed him on the situation in south Lebanon, where according to Mr. Arafat fighting was still going on.

Official sources said Sheikh Fahmi: oil weapon will be used if Israel persists in occupation

CAIRO, May 23 (AFP). — Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmi has warned here that the "oil weapon" will be used again if Israel persisted in its occupation of Arab lands and if the Palestinians did not recover their rights.

In a statement quoted by the press here today, Mr. Fahmi also described Arab oil as a force on both the practical and political plan. It was equally a weapon of repression because its effects could hit the developed nations, he added.

Mr. Fahmi believed the victory by the rightwing Likud Party would not change anything in the region. The Arabs had to realise their possibilities and capacities and know how to exploit them at the right time, he said.

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S. Moluccan gunmen seize school, train in Holland

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Police believed that 105 children, with six teachers, were huddled at gunpoint in Bovensmilde village primary school near here. Another gang held about 50 people in the inter-city train, about 20 kms away.

The gunmen are extremists among some 40,000 south Moluccan exiles in Holland, who seek independence for their Pacific homeland from Indonesian rule.

In a nearly identical drama in December 1975 -- when a train and an Indonesian consulate were seized -- the Moluccans sought help from the Dutch, the former colonial rulers, for their cause.

"Our first concern is for the lives of the hostages," Dutch Prime Minister Joop den Uyl said today. But there was no immediate official word on any demands the gunmen might have sent to him.

There were also no reports of any casualties in today's raids, staged a few minutes apart.

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Minutes later six or seven gunmen burst into Bovensmilde school just as the children got out their books and settled down to Monday morning lessons.

Police believed that six men and a woman formed the gang on the train.

The woman and a man were already aboard on the run north from Rotterdam and they halted the express by pulling the communication cord.

The man whipped a sub-machine gun from a plastic bag. When the train stopped, other gunmen climbed on.

Police said 34 passengers were freed and the others taken into two compartments.

Justice minister Andreas van Agt rushed to an emergency government operations centre set up at Assen, nearest town to the scene of the two sieges.

He said he did not think the incidents were linked with general elections due in only two days' time. Officials said the vote would go ahead.

Mr. Simcha Ehrlich, number two man in the Likud Party, which swept to victory in last Tuesday's general election, said Mr. Begin's condition was good and added that he might be released from hospital in a few days.

Mr. Ehrlich, who is tipped as the country's next finance minister, told reporters that, although Mr. Begin was in an intensive care unit, he was not linked to any mechanical medical device. Doctors believed the fiery nationalist leader had overworked himself before and after the election, he added.

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Managing Editor:
Jenab Tutunji

Deputy Managing Editor:
Bassam Bishuti

Board of Directors:
Juma'a Hamad,
Mohamad Amad,
Mahmoud Al Kayad
Responsible Editor:
Mohamad Amad

Editorial and Advertising Offices:

JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION

University Road - P.O. Box 6710 - Amman, Jordan
Tel. 67171/2/3/4 - Cables: JORTIMES - Telex: 1497 (All Rab)

Words that ring true

President Carter's speech at Notre Dame University was not only a revolutionary statement of America's role in the world, offering a fresh and broad perspective on human rights, the relation between industrial and developing nations, and significantly the Middle East crisis, but the speech had the unmistakable ring of authenticity to it.

Mr. Carter's affirmation of human dignity and the inseparability of peace from justice on the global level are welcome and commendable, yet one sentence in the speech stands out as a testimony to Mr. Carter's seriousness as no other: "In the life of the human spirit, words are action."

This sort of terminology has not entered the jargon of politics, it is still the exclusive province of philosophy and has not been hackneyed, worn and cruelly misused as the word "dialogue", for instance, which has been rendered unrecognisable in the mouths of politicians.

Mr. Carter's statement is a signal which is esoteric in nature, a signal that the words he speaks are not lightly thrown out because they sound good; they are the words of a man who has delved into the intimate relationship between himself as a man and the expression of his commitments and determination. The words ring true because they are the extension of the man, an act of his own spirit, and as such a personal commitment to be honoured.

Nor does he speak naively, for he expressly tells his audience "I understand fully the limits of moral suasion. I have no illusion changes will come easily..."

Hence Mr. Carter's pledge to continue to promote a settlement in the Middle East despite the change of leadership in Israel, his reiteration that a Palestinian homeland is a key issue, coupled with the blunt statement: "We expect Israel and her neighbours to continue to be bound by U.N. resolutions 242 and 338, which they have previously accepted," leaves no doubt that the U.S. peace initiative in the Middle East will proceed undeterred and will continue to enjoy the undiminished backing of a man who is not easily deflected from the path he is convinced is right.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I comments editorially on the role of Western Europe in efforts to find a just and durable Middle East settlement. The paper says that the West European attitude towards the Arab cause is characterised by hypocrisy, evasiveness and complements.

Up until now it has wavered negatively and positively, back and forth, without taking a fixed stand or shape.

Europe, the paper says, has been drawn behind its emotions since the end of its colonial era. The Israeli Labour Party played a very effective role with Europe's main parties, and is a member of its Socialist International.

Europe, the paper goes on to say, moved a little bit towards the Arabs following the October 1973 war, but it did not at all relinquish its long hatred for the Arabs. Israel remained the wasted child of the European Common Market. Now the real Zionists have appeared on the Israeli scene with the Likud victory, and Europe should no more be deceived by the so called socialists of Israel, and should play a more constructive role in its economic, social and political organisations, to further the Euro-Arab dialogue and to make it effective for the cause of peace in the area.

AL SHAB' comments editorially on Prince Fahd's visit to London and the United States. The paper says that the visit

has special importance for two reasons: First, the talks with Mr. Carter are initiated with a new background due to the new developments in the Israeli political scene, and second, the special relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia, as both play the role of importer and exporter of energy sources.

The paper says that the Saudi attitude is very clear. The Israeli attitude is very clear too as represented by the Likud Party and the announcements of its leader Mr. Begin. What remains the paper says is that President Carter should clarify the attitude of the United States, taking into account the new developments in the Middle East.

AL DUSTOUR considers the meeting between Mr. Carter and Prince Fahd to be "decisive" not only for the Israeli-Arab conflict but also for many other things out of which the Saudi-American relationships rank high.

Saudi Arabia, which convinced many Arab countries to give the United States a "last chance" to achieve peace in the Middle East, is morally committed to tell the Arabs the result of this test.

The paper says that We have to wait the result of these "decisive and historic" talks between the deputy of the king of Saudi Arabia and what we may figuratively the "king of Israel".

Iraq, U.S. expected to resume relations

By Bernd Debusmann

BEIRUT, May 23 (R). — Iraq, the Arab World's leading "hawk", is considering resuming diplomatic ties with the United States after a break of almost 10 years, sources close to Iraqi thinking said here on Saturday.

A resumption of relations, broken by Iraq during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, was the main topic in Baghdad talks earlier this week between Iraqi Foreign Minister Saadoun Hammadi and Mr. Philip Habib, the U.S. State Department top political affairs expert.

The State Department said after Mr. Habib's return to Washington that ways to restore ties had been discussed. But neither the Americans nor the Iraqis said anything about a date for a resumption.

The sources here said they believed ties would be re-established before the end of the year, leaving South Yemen as the only Middle East Arab country without diplomatic relations with Washington.

Mr. Habib's talks in Baghdad were the latest in a series of American initiatives aimed at normalising relations with Iraq, whose closest political ally and chief armorer is the Soviet Union.

Lebanese-born American Sen. James Abu Rizk had talks in Baghdad earlier this year.

Resumption of relations would make little practical difference -- the United States interests section at the Belgian Embassy in Baghdad functions as an embassy -- but would be a diplomatic success, Middle East experts said.

Official Iraqi policy portrays "United States imperialism" as "public enemy number one" but this view is not allowed to interfere with activities which Iraqi leaders consider essential to build up their country.

The United States is Iraq's third biggest trade partner after Japan and West Germany. Trade has trebled since 1974.

Last year, the United States exported goods worth \$381 million to Iraq, with imports to-

talling \$123 million. In 1974, trade both ways totalled \$168 million, according to Iraqi figures.

The sources here said Iraq's apparent willingness to mend fences with the United States was motivated in part by fears of being isolated if more "conservative" Arab governments and the United States settled the Middle East crisis.

Iraq is the chief backer of the Rejection Front of Palestinian commando organisations opposed to a peaceful settlement in the Middle East under the present balance of power in the area.

Despite its uncompromising stand on Israel, Iraq has followed a policy of hard-headed pragmatism in the nine years since a coup brought the Baath Party to power.

The sources here said Iraq's decision on ties with the United States now depended partly on developments in the Middle East following the emergence of Mr. Menachem Begin's rightist Likud Coalition as Israel's biggest party.

Case of Filipino woman is a test of Carter's policy

By Colin Bieckler

MANILA, May 23 (R). — The case of a Filipino Catholic woman activist who claims she was tortured by the military has become a test here of President Jimmy Carter's human rights campaign.

Mrs. Trinidad Herrera was released last week after 18 days' detention, following calls from Roman Catholic bishops for investigation into allegations that she was given electric shock torture and the surprise intervention of the United States.

On the instructions of the U.S. State Department Mr. Lee Stull, American Charge d'Affaires here, approached the Philippines authorities. Before her release the government allowed two U.S. Embassy officials to see her in detention -- a privilege normally accorded to diplomats in connection with their own nationals.

Civil rights workers here say the Philippine government's agreement to a U.S. request to investigate Mrs. Herrera's torture claims could have wide repercussions. Despite government denials they insist that hers is only one of dozens of instances of alleged torture.

In ordering Mrs. Herrera's release, President Marcos said investigations would continue into whether she had taken part in illegal and subversive rallies. But her alleged torturers would also be questioned and possibly face a court martial. These include a lieutenant whom Mrs. Herrera picked out in an identity parade.

Civil rights workers here believe Mrs. Herrera's case arouses American attention because her activities had made her known to some U.S. congressmen.

She was refused an exit visa to go to last year's United Nations Conference on Human Habitat in Vancouver, attended by the wife of the Presi-

dent, Mrs. Imelda Marcos, who as governor of metropolitan Manila is pursuing several resettlement schemes for Manila's slum dwellers.

She was expected to take a different stand from Mrs. Marcos on the schemes one of which is in the slum Tondo district in which Mrs. Herrera lives and works.

The schemes have drawn both praise and criticism, with some slum dwellers claiming that not enough attention was paid to their demands.

Mrs. Herrera, a 37-year-old housewife, has long been active in following up slum dwellers' grievances, the kind of activity regarded with suspicion under martial law.

She is president of the Zone One Tondo Organisation (ZOTO) which the military claims is affiliated to a front organisation of the banned Communist Party of the Philippines.

But former Sen. Francisco Rodrigo, lawyer for Mrs. Herrera, said: "It is not a subversive organisation, it agitates for the protection of human rights," both Roman Catholic and Protestant clergymen and nuns were active in the movement, he said.

The government has also accused some clergy of being involved in subversion in the past two years. An American priest working in the Tondo district was among several foreign priests expelled last year.

"Before martial law, disgruntled people went to their congressmen," said Mr. Rodrigo. "But now they go to their priests."

But whatever case there might be against Mrs. Herrera, what most agitates civil rights workers -- and apparently the U.S. government -- are her allegations that she was subjected to electric shock torture by a team of interrogators.

This is only one of a long series of torture allegations by detainees in the Philippines which has led President Marcos to make vigorous statements that torture is against his government's policy and he would root out any violators.

The London-based Amnesty International, in a report last year, said it had found "convincing evidence that the employment of torture was widespread" in the Philippines.

In all the torture allegations the use of electric shocks is prominent. Women claim it was applied to sexual parts and Mrs. Herrera says an electrode was attached to one of her nipples.

President Marcos says medical evidence does not appear to support this. Mr. Rodrigo says it does.

Since the latest allegations, the Defence Ministry has warned its officers that torture and ill-treatment of prisoners will not be tolerated.

Four low-ranking officers and soldiers have been punished after investigations and the authorities have announced the abolition of so-called "safe houses" -- secret places for interrogation.

Defence Secretary Juan Ponce recently disclosed that some 1,450 people were in detention on what might be termed political charges, including subversion and incitement to rebellion.

It is still not totally clear why Mrs. Herrera's case was singled out by the Americans.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman here said, "It is because we have a general interest in the field of human rights." When asked why this case and not others, he said, "I cannot go beyond that."

But the precedent set by the U.S. interest in Mrs. Herrera's case is clearly being watched by all sides in the Philippines.

Brazilian barber performs 15 surgery operations on himself

By Yvan Chemla

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 23 (AFP). — An uneducated, 49-year-old former barber, living in poverty since he was horribly disfigured when he fell down a flight of stairs, has stupefied the Brazilian medical world by carrying out 15 plastic surgery operations on himself.

"He displayed extraordinary self will and determination," Prof. Ivo Pitanguy, one of Brazil's leading plastic surgeons told AFP. "I pass no judgement on the results, but I can say that he did not mutilate himself and that his intentions were purely constructive."

The incredible story began in 1960 when Mr. Walter Alves Pereira fell down a flight of stairs. His battered face was unrecognisable. In hospital, where he was given emergency treatment, he was told that he would need plastic surgery but that it would be expensive and he would have to pay. A poor barber, he did not even earn enough money to pay social security subscriptions.

For Mr. Pereira this was the beginning of his Calvary. He shut himself up in a ruined shack in the slum district of Barra Mansa, a village about 100 kms. from Rio de Janeiro. For the local children he became the werewolf who, according to legend, appeared at midnight every Friday. When he ventured out, people would cross themselves as they passed him. Others threw stones.

The villagers feared him as some supernatural being. "I dare not go out at night for fear of being shot," he said. "You know how people are up country. They believe anything and everything."

A year ago, Mr. Pereira, living off charity and driven to utter despair, could stand it no longer. He decided to become a normal man again.

He started by cutting pieces of skin off his chest and began to repair the left side of his face. He made himself a nose in plastic and re-shaped his mouth. For his operations he used a local anaesthetic, Novocain-100, half a razor blade, a pair of hair tweezers, an ordinary sewing needle, cotton thread and alcohol.

Mr. Pereira had once worked briefly for a dentist and he remembered what he had seen there. He also managed to procure a book on plastic surgery from a local medical centre.

"I started operating on myself because I was desperate," he said. "I had broken off my engagement to a pretty girl and I was so ugly that no one would give me a job, especially in my profession."

"The first operation I tried was on my mouth. I had to do that before I could start repairing my nose. My first attempts failed because I did not know that you had to join the nerves up. I later learnt that from my book."

Mr. Pereira did know, however, that he ought to have special thread for internal stitches. But since he did not have any he used an ordinary sewing needle and ordinary thread for all his operations. He used a dentist's hyperdermic syringe for his anaesthetics. To stop the bleeding on his chest the apprentice surgeon applied builders' plaster over the wounds.

"I never had any infection because I boiled everything before using it and never drank anything," he explained. People

said I was crazy.... But if you had seen me before my operations.... I did it solely to survive, so that people would stop calling me names, leave me in peace and stop throwing stones at me."

Mr. Pereira is bitter about hospitals and doctors.

"In all the hospitals I went to after my accident they strung me along with a lot of tales, gave thousands of excuses. And as for doctors, I don't believe there is a single one willing to give free treatment."

Yet when his story became known -- and Mr. Pereira himself admits it -- several doctors offered their services. Today he is being treated by Prof. Pitanguy who explains: "Mr. Pereira was probably misinformed about the possibilities in this country where plastic surgery is considered a normal part of ordinary medicine."

"Rio de Janeiro is one of the cities in the world with most doctors," he said. "There are about one hundred skilled plastic surgeons, that is with normal medical training and experience in general surgery. There is a plastic surgeon in every medical team on permanent duty in all the hospitals in the city."

Dr. Pitanguy added that there was a high proportion of work on road accidents in Brazil. "In the hospital I direct -- and where Mr. Pereira is under treatment -- 80 per cent of the patients are victims of congenital malformations or accidents."

After his face is remodelled, Mr. Pereira intends returning to Barra Mansa to look after the few chickens he managed to rear there.

With question of Zaire out of the way

Soviet-Moroccan ties back to normal

By Andre Davy

RABAT, May 23 (AFP). — Soviet-Moroccan relations, soured last month when Morocco sent troops to Zaire, are now back to normal, according to observers here.

The improvement follows a visit to Morocco on May 9 and 10 of Mr. Alexis Shvedov, Director of the North African Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

Negotiations between the two countries are reportedly under way for major economic and financial aid from the Soviet Union in return for an undertaking that Morocco will not stay too long in Zaire and that Angola will not be affected by the mopping up operations currently going on along the Katanga rebel forces.

This guarantee is not something new and was given in April by King Hassan to ambassadors from five foreign powers at a briefing on Zaire in the royal palace in Marrakesh.

Mr. Shvedov came to Morocco on March on a fact-finding mission. He returned later, ostensibly to visit the Casablanca International Fair, but took the opportunity to meet the king and foreign minister Ahmad Laraki in Rabat.

During their talks, which lasted two hours, King Hassan and Mr. Shvedov were said to have discussed both Zaire and the Sahara problem.

King Hassan was reported to have warned Mr. Shvedov that Morocco would not "stay arms folded" if other attacks like the recent raid on Zouerate were carried out against Mauritania "by Algeria acting through the Polisario front."

He was believed to have told Mr. Shvedov that Morocco would not hesitate to intervene directly and possibly take retaliatory action against the Polisario bases near Tindouf inside Algerian territory, whatever the consequences.

Mr. Shvedov is said to have emphasised that the Soviet Union had always kept strictly neutral in the dispute between Morocco and Algeria over the ownership of the Sahara and that there was no question of a change in Soviet policy.

In the economic field, Mr. Shvedov reportedly pledged Moscow's willingness to co-operate with Morocco, in particular for the development of phosphate mining at Meskala north of Marrakesh.

Morocco has the world's largest known reserves of phosphate and the Soviet Union's own production will soon fall short of demand, observers noted.

Moscow is believed to have proposed long-term low-interest loans to build a mining complex at Meskala and to build a harbour at Jorf Lasfar on the Atlantic coast specialising in phosphate exports.

The loans were said to total

more than \$2,000 million, at 2.5 per cent interest.

In addition, the Soviet Union may seek to conclude an oil-phosphate barter agreement involving a yearly quota of 10 million tons of phosphate.

The Managing Director of the Moroccan Phosphate Board Karim Lamrani went on Saturday to Moscow to continue negotiations.

The Moroccan Prime Minister Ahmad Osman has reportedly been invited to pay an official visit to the Soviet Union shortly when he may sign the phosphate agreement.

Observers saw a connection between Mr. Shvedov's talks here and subsequent visits by Dr. Ahmad Laraki to Nouakchott (May 13) and Zaire (May 19).

Dr. Laraki, who is still visiting Zaire, is accompanied by Gen. Moulay Hafid Alaoui, Minister of the Royal House. Reports had said he was to discuss with President Mobutu Sese Seko the withdrawal of the 1,500 strong Moroccan expeditionary force from Shaba (ex-Katanga) where the rebellion has virtually ended.

In fact, Mr. Laraki announced in Zaire yesterday that the Moroccan troops there had ended their mission.

Normalisation between Morocco and the Soviet Union was not without similarity to Moscow's efforts at the opposite side of North Africa to normalise its relations with Egypt, observers said.

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Italian pianist plays the town; six artists display

THESE days Amman is being tuned into the Italian style of art and culture... Last Saturday Prof. Giorgio Gullini gave a lecture about Italian archaeological activities in the region. Monday evening a piano recital was held at the Haya Arts Centre under the patronage of Minister of Culture and Youth Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf. The starring artist was Marcella Crudeli. After the concert an exhibition was opened of the works of the following painters, who all studied in Italy: Francesca Dall'Aglio, Muhanna Durra, Ali Ghul, Khaled Jayoussi, Munther Kilani and Rafiq Laham.

By Irene Ramadan
Special to the Jordan Times

A Virtuoso of the Keyboard

"Pianist's charm and freshness... Miss Crudeli's lightness of touch, clean textures and rhythmic vitality evoked charm and freshness and delight in untroubled but not heartless music-making... So much of youth and joy in a commission well carried out, were in her playing."

This is what the London Times said about Marcella Crudeli. And Miss Crudeli has been cheered all over the world.

She is considered one of the best Italian performers. She is a graduate of the G. Verdi Music Conservatory in Milan as well as the Salzburg and Vienna Academies. She also had famous maestros as teachers: Alfred Cortot, Bruno Seidhofer and Carlo Zecchi.

Her career prospects were considered "very good" by Cortot, who recognised in her a "first-class talent" and "a true musician".

In fact, her career has been a great success throughout Europe, America, Asia and Africa.

The authoritative Berlin critic Stuckenschmidt said that she was "a phenomenal" pianist, able to compete with many of the most famous virtuosos of the keyboard.

Marcella Crudeli is a teacher of "pianoforte principale" at the Conservatory of Santa Cecilia in Rome. She has made many records.

A Who's Who of the Painters

After the concert, the audience visited an exhibition of some Jordanian artists who studied in Rome. The "eternal city" seems to have a big attraction for Jordanian painters, who see in it the capital of art and the values and qualities proper for Mediterranean civilisation. Here is a brief who's who of the painters gathered at the Haya Arts Centre.

MUHANNA DURRA:



It is useless to present once again this outstanding painter, who started the artistic movement in Jordan and established the Institute of Fine Arts in 1970... His paintings are extremely modern, but they have a fantastic oriental atmosphere full of various shades of blue. He is an artist with a very mature style, courage-

ous and quiet, which goes beyond the reality we know. A graduate of the Accademia delle Arti di Roma, he has exhibited his works all over the world.

RAFIQ LAHAM:

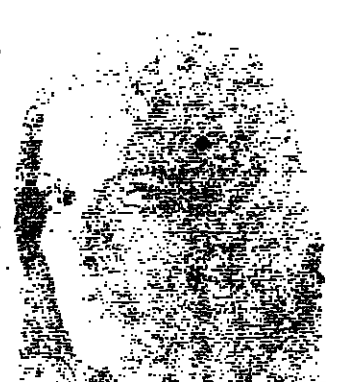


An excellent artist who excels in lithographs and etchings. With a melancholy for arabesque and melodious shapes, he is one of the earliest and best painters in Jordan. He is a graduate of the Academy of ENALC in Rome. He also studied sculpture at San Giacomo Institute in Rome, and he is now working as fine arts counsellor at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. While abroad, he made first-hand studies at major museums in London, Paris, Amsterdam, Washington, Boston and Rochester.

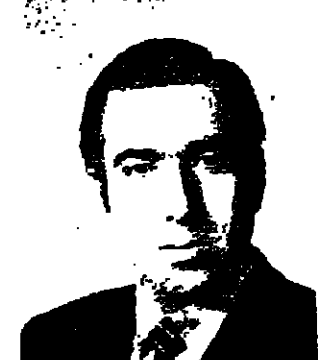
FRANCESCA

DALL'AGLIO:

Born in Lucca, and married to a Jordanian, she graduated in architecture at the University of Florence. In particular she does portraits in ink and wash. She has great confidence in her way of dealing with the brush. During her studies, she also attended courses in restoration and artistic ceramics.



ALI GHUL:



A spontaneous and extremely sensitive artist, he graduated from the Architecture Faculty at the University of Florence, where he worked as an assistant professor. He has won many international prizes.

MUNTHUR KILANI:



For him, painting is mainly a hobby, but his works are excellent. Using in particular sprayed colours, he creates ingenious geometrical forms and likes to play with the value of different tones. He completed his studies in Venice, where he graduated in architecture at the Istituto Universitario di Architettura. Back in Amman he collaborated with Jordan Television, the Ministry of Culture and the former Ministry of Economy.

KHALED JAYOUSSI:

A promising artist, his experience as an architect gives him an ability to make very comfortable compositions. He studied painting at the Accademia di Belle Arti in Florence. He graduated in architecture at the University of Florence. His first showing at an art exhibition was in 1962. He is now working as head of the Department of Town Planning in the Jordan Valley Commission.

NATIONAL NOTES

* AMMAN. — Minister of Interior Suleiman Arar received the Saudi ambassador in Amman Monday.

* AMMAN. — Jordan will take part in the International Flower Exhibition to open in Damascus Wednesday. It will continue until the end of May.

* AMMAN. — The Ministry of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs Monday asked the Ministry of Tourism to allocate a suitable plot of land at the tourist site of Petra for the construction of a mosque.

* AMMAN. — The Ministry of Education has allocated JD 32,500 for work camps to be erected during the school vacation. Several thousand students are expected to work in the camps.

* AMMAN. — Minister of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs Kamel Al Sharif has received an invitation from the Turkish government to take part in a five-day international conference on Prophet Mohammed's life due to open in Istanbul June 10.



His Highness Prince Hassan mingles with an interested crowd during his visit to the northern desert region Monday. (JNA photo).

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION RETURNS FROM SOVIET UNION

AMMAN (Agencies). — A parliamentary delegation led by Speaker of the Upper House Bahjat Talhouni returned here Monday after a seven-day visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Supreme Soviet.

Mr. Talhouni said on his return that discussions covered cooperation between the Jordanian parliament and the Soviet Union at the bilateral level and in the International Parliamentary Union.

The delegation also had an opportunity to look at Soviet achievements in the economic, scientific, petroleum and agricultural fields.

Mr. Talhouni expressed appreciation for the Soviet Union's stand supporting the Arabs in their effort to bring about a just and permanent peace in the Middle East.

The delegation also visited the republics of Azerbaijan and the Ukraine.

Prince Hassan: Desert will become productive

AMMAN (JNA). — His Highness Prince Hassan Monday said that the Jordanian countryside and the badia (desert) will witness comprehensive development in the future, which will transform it into a productive region. This will raise the social, economic and educational standards of its inhabitants.

The Crown Prince, who toured the northern badia Monday, added that the large-scale projects currently underway in the region will complement services provided by the government and ensure job opportunities, essential public services like water, electricity and a road network, in addition to the setting up of an educational institute there similar to Yarmouk University.

The Crown Prince said that one of the essential duties of

the government is to limit emigration from the badia to the cities by settling desert inhabitants in populated centres and ensuring economic and social services in these centres.

Prince Hassan also called on administrative governors to familiarise people with the development projects to be implemented in their region.

Prince Hassan was accompanied on his tour by the ministers of communications and municipal and rural affairs, the acting health minister, the vice president of the Natural Resources Authority, the director of the Jordanian Cooperatives Organisation and other officials from Irbid Governorate.

1976 EXPORTS

TO SOCIALIST STATES JUMP 14%

AMMAN (JNA). — Jordan's exports to socialist countries last year rose by 14 per cent compared with 1975.

Jordan's imports from these countries increased by 30 per cent. Exports to socialist countries last year amounted to JD 7,293,000 against JD 6,390,000 in 1975. Imports last year totalled JD 25,107,000 against JD 19,324,000 in 1975.

University agrees on exchange with Sorbonne

AMMAN (JNA). — An agreement for cultural exchanges between the University of Jordan and the Sorbonne in Paris was signed last Tuesday, the President of the University of Jordan, Dr. Ishaq Al Farhan, announced Sunday.

The agreement provides for cooperation in the fields of social sciences, particularly law, economy, archaeology and history, added Dr. Al Farhan, who returned here from a week-long

Economic integration comes under discussion

DAMASCUS, May 23 (Agencies). — The Joint Jordanian-Syrian Economic Committee met here today to review steps being taken to establish full economic and industrial coordination between the two countries.

The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Dr. Najmeddine Dajani, and Dr. Mohammad Al Imadi, Syria's Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade.

Dr. Dajani, who arrived here earlier today, said the committee would speed up the integration procedure by unifying the relating regulations, including those pertaining to customs duties.

In a related development, the Jordan News Agency (JNA) reported that the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Economic Committee for Industrial Coordination will meet in Damascus May 28 to study means of coordinating industrial projects in the two countries.

Jordan will be represented by a team headed by the under-secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, JNA continued.

Memos signed for Japanese dam loan

AMMAN (JNA). — Memos were signed here Monday whereby Japan will give Jordan a JD 8.3 million loan to finance the construction of the Wadi Al Arab dam in the Jordan Valley. It will irrigate some 12,500 dunums and store 12 million cubic metres of water.

At a ceremony in the National Planning Council, the two governments exchanged notes on the provision of the loan. Its interest rate is fixed at 3.5 per cent, to be repaid in 25 years with a grace period of seven years.

The memos indicate that the loan will be used for the purchase of goods and services for the Wadi Al Arab dam from Japan or any other developing country -- to be agreed upon by the Jordanian and Japanese governments.

The memos were signed for Jordan by the President of the National Planning Council, Dr. Hanna Odeh, and for Japan by its ambassador in Amman.

This is the second Japanese loan for Jordanian development projects. Japan previously gave a JD 3.3 million loan for the improvement of telecommunications facilities in a number of towns.

GOETHE INSTITUTE, AMMAN

On the occasion of Jordan's Independence and Army Day, the Goethe Institute will be closed on Wednesday, May 25.

The lecture by Dr. Moawiya Ibrahim scheduled for that day will be postponed to a later date.

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LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	569.0	575.0
U.S. dollar	330.0	332.0
German mark	140.0	140.4
French franc	66.8	67.1
Swiss franc	131.0	131.4
Italian lire (for every 100)	37.3	37.5
Saudi riyal	93.3	93.5
Lebanese pound	107.5	108.2
Syrian pound	81.0	81.3
Iraqi dinar	947.0	958.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1,146.0	1,150.0
Egyptian pound	480.0	485.0
Libyan dinar	780.0	770.0
UAE dirham	84.6	85.0

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies against the dollar at the close of inter-bank trading on the London foreign exchange market today. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

one sterling =	1.7171/73	U.S. dollars
one dollar =	2.3630/40	West German marks
	2.4580/95	Dutch guilders
	2.5175/85	Swiss francs
	36.10/11	Belgian francs
	4.9565/75	French francs
	885.80/95	Italian lire
	277.45/55	Japanese yen
	4.3575/85	Swedish crowns
	5.2750/60	Norwegian crowns
	5.9975/90	Danish crowns

WALL STREET REPORT

Prices suffered a sharp setback Monday on the New York stock exchange where the industrial average lost more than 13 points, its steepest decline of the year.

Trading was moderate. American investors were apparently still worrying over rising interest rates and the fact that the Federal Reserve has decided to tighten its credit policy.

Losers led gainers at the bell by a very wide 1,169 to 321 margin, as most groups of shares closed on a weaker tone.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 917.06, a loss of 13.40 points. Transp at 244.01, a loss of 1.02; utilities at 110.94, a loss of 0.80. 18,290,000 shares changed hands, of which 3,910,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

Equities declined but were off lows at the close. At 15:00 Monday the F.T. index was down 8.1 at 453.2.

Government bonds and equities were initially lower following a gloomy survey of industrial trends by the Confederation of British Industry and press comment on the rise in the retail price index last Friday. Government bonds picked up during the afternoon session in reaction to small buying interest and closed little changed or about 1/8 off in places. Equities came off the bottom in sympathy but net falls still ranged to 10p.

Gold shares drifted lower and Australians eased. U.S. and Canadian stocks were neglected.

S. and W. Berisford ended two pence up after half-year results which accompanied the one for four rights issue to raise around £13 million.

I.C.I. halved a six pence fall while Courtaulds recouped a two pence loss. Both companies are reporting on Thursday.

B.P. was 10p up but other oils eased in places.

Glaxo ended 10p off while sixpence falls were seen in Fisons, Tube Investments, Unilever and Metal Box. Banks declined up to nine pence after adverse press comment. Second line issues followed the general trend.

Price of gold closed in London Monday at \$146.55/oz.

U.N. conference tackles seabed rights dispute

UNITED NATIONS, May 23 (R). — Delegates of 150 countries have gathered for talks here which may be the world's last chance to avoid a bitter, international smash-and-grab struggle for the mineral riches of the ocean floor.

The meeting, which begins at United Nations headquarters today will be the 6th session of the U.N. Law of the Sea Conference.

The opening session of the conference, which aims to draft laws to govern every maritime activity from navigation and fishing to pollution control and mining, began in Caracas in December, 1973.

But differences have arisen between industrialised and developing states -- mainly on seabed mineral wealth -- and time may be running out.

"We are coming to the in-

evitable conclusion that, unless substantial progress towards an acceptable treaty is made at the forthcoming session in New York, the momentum towards agreement that has been generated may be lost and not easily regained," said U.S. Delegate Elliot Richardson.

Mr. Richardson, a former U.S. Attorney General and Ambassador to Britain, added that if this opportunity were allowed to slip away, "we may not come this close to success for years to come."

Wide agreement has been reached during the past three years on many of the 365 articles contained in what at this stage is called a revised single negotiating text.

But the last session ended in deadlock due to disagreement

between the advanced industrial nations and many developing countries over the control of future mining operations in the seabed.

Huge polymetallic nodules which contain manganese, cobalt, copper and nickel are scattered over the ocean bottom beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, an area which the U.N. General Assembly in 1970 designated as the "common heritage of mankind."

Virtually all countries agree that an international seabed authority should be set up to regulate mining activities and ensure that developing countries receive a proportion of the proceeds.

But the issue is: Should states and private firms -- which would have vast investment at risk, have a guaranteed, permanent role in seabed min-

ing, as the industrial countries want, or should such a role be granted only at the discretion of the international authority, as some developing countries have insisted?

Some optimism followed a round of informal consultations in Geneva two months ago attended by 85 conference delegations and presided over by Norway's chief sea law negotiator, Mr. Jens Evensen.

But even if the forthcoming session goes well, further meetings will probably still be needed before a final treaty is ready for signing at a ceremony to be held in Caracas.

In the event of failure, diplomats say there could be a free-for-all over maritime rights as fierce as past disputes over territory.

Saudi Arabia ready for gradual oil price rise

BEIRUT, May 23, (R). — Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Fahd has said his country is ready to raise oil prices gradually from now to the end of this year to bring Saudi Arabian prices into line with the majority of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Prince Fahd said he did not consider the existence of a two-tier price system in OPEC as a crisis. "As far as a solution is concerned, efforts are underway and we hope to reach a positive result soon," he said in an interview with the Lebanese newspaper Al Anwar.

"We are also ready to raise our oil prices gradually from now up to the end of the year until it reaches the higher price level," he added without elaborating.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates increased their oil prices by five per cent this year while the other OPEC members approved a 15 per cent rise in two stages.

Crown Prince Fahd arrived in London for talks with British Prime Minister James Callaghan on Friday. He leaves today for talks with President Carter in Washington on prospects for re-convening the Geneva Middle East Peace Conference.

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE ERECTION, INSTALLATION AND START-UP OF TWO CRUSHING AND SCREENING PLANTS AND, THREE DRYERS AT WADI-ELABYAD PROJECT SITE (Millsite No. 2)

Tenders will be received from duly qualified bidders for the erection, installation and start-up of Crushing Plants Nos. 1 and 2 and Dryers Nos. 1, 2 and 3 of Wadi Elabyad project, owned by Jordan Phosphate Mines Co., Ltd. (Hereinafter called JPMC).

We now invite you to prepare your proposals and submit your tender in accordance with the enclosed documents, which can be obtained at fee of JD 50.

Tenders will be received only until 29th June, 1977

12.00 a.m., Amman time (10:00 a.m. GMT).

Any tender received after said day and hour will be rejected by JPMC. Tender shall be presented in sealed envelopes. The outside envelope shall be plainly addressed to:

JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO., LTD.

TENDER NO. 8F/77

P.O. BOX (30), AMMAN,

THE H.K. OF JORDAN.

It should be expressly noted by all tenderers that JPMC reserves the right, without any liability on the part of JPMC, to reject any or all tenders. Further, that the lowest Bidder will not necessarily be awarded the Contract. Tenderers are requested to submit with their tender and in triplicate the necessary documents substantiating their physical and financial ability to undertake the Works. Tenderers are also requested to submit, in triplicate, schedule of equipment and materials to be used by them for undertaking the works, together with a schedule of the experienced staff that will be employed to implement the contract.

Tenderers must enclose together with their tenders a Bank Guarantee in favour of and payable to Jordan Phosphate Mines Co., Ltd. in the amount equal to (5%) of the tender sum.

CAR FOR SALE

1975 DODGE DART CUSTOM

Full automatic 13,900 miles.

Customs not paid, excellent condition. JD 1200

Phone Mr. Taha Heyari — Home 42487 — Office 42466.

NEW HOUSE TO LET

Second floor house consisting of three bedrooms, living

room, dining and sitting room, two verandas and two

bathrooms. Central heating, independent entrance with a garden.

Location: Shmeisani behind Al Duster newspaper building.

Please contact tel. 30874.

HOUSE TO LET

2 stories:

First floor: 2 bedrooms, 1 living room, 1 dining room,

1 kitchen, 1 bath, 2 porches and a garden.

Second floor: 4 bedrooms, 1 sitting room, 1 living

room, 1 dining room, 2 porches, 1 kitchen, 2 baths and a garden.

Opposite the 5th Circle, suburb area. Tel. 44626.

HORSE RACING RESULTS

FIRST RACE

FOR LOCAL COUNTRY HORSES, BEGINNERS

DISTANCE 1,600 METRES

The first: FITNIH

Owner Ghalib Haddadin.

Time: 1.56 minutes.

The second: BINT EL BARK.

Owner Tawfiq Ksous.

The third: SIT EL KHAIL.

Owner Rashid Oudih.

WIN: 200 fils — 400 fils

TWIN: 400 fils — JD 7

SECOND RACE

FOR BEGINNER HORSES

DISTANCE 1,000 METRES

The first: RADHAN.

Owner Mousa Faris.

Time: 1.10 minutes.

The second: MAHASIN.

Owner Sami Yacoub.

The third: SAKLAWI.

Owner El Talia'a Stable.

WIN: 200 fils — 800 fils

TWIN: 400 fils — JD 2.2

THIRD RACE

FOR BEGINNER HORSES

DISTANCE 1,400 METRES

The first: A. EL HAWA.

Owner Bahjat Fanous.

Time: 1.35 minutes.

The second: ANBAR.

Owner Nadim S. Al Dajani.

The third: KWAIES.

Owner Tawfiq Ksous.

WIN: 200 fils — 350 fils

TWIN: 400 fils — JD 1

FOURTH RACE

FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES

DISTANCE 1,000 METRES

The first: MIHMAS.

Owner Tawfiq Ksous.

Time: 1.11 minutes.

The second: AJAB.

Owner Marwan S. Lallas.

The third: NAHLAWI.

Owner Samir Farkoh.

WIN: 200 fils — 300 fils

TWIN: 400 fils — JD 3

FIFTH RACE

FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES

DISTANCE 1,600 METRES

The first: MARTINAZ.

Owner Wasif Bisharat.

Time: 1.48 minutes.

The second: TAMRI.

Owner Bahjat Fanous.

The third: TUL.

Owner Khalil F. Borqan.

WIN: 200 fils — 300 fils

TWIN: 400 fils — JD 4.5

SIXTH RACE

FOR SECOND CLASS HORSES

DISTANCE 2,000 METRES

The first: TARRAD.

Owner Tawfiq Ksous.

Time: 2.21 minutes.

The second: SABIR AYYOUB.

Owner Tawfiq Ksous.

The third: SINAJ.

Owner Saif H. Majali.

WIN: 200 fils — 250 fils

TWIN: 400 fils — JD 2

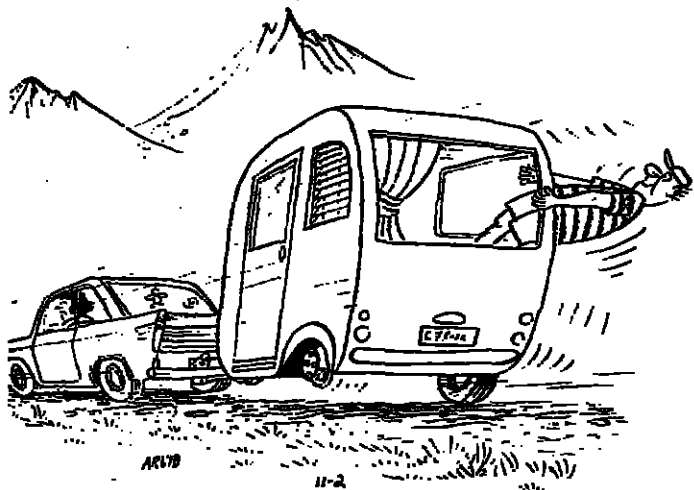
DOUBLE TOTE: 400 fils — JD 4

هكذا صحت القصة

APOLOGY

The Jordan Times apologises to its readers for the non-appearance of Your Daily Horoscope due to the fact that our stocks have run out. We hope to be able to continue publishing it as soon as possible.

LAUGHS FROM EUROPE

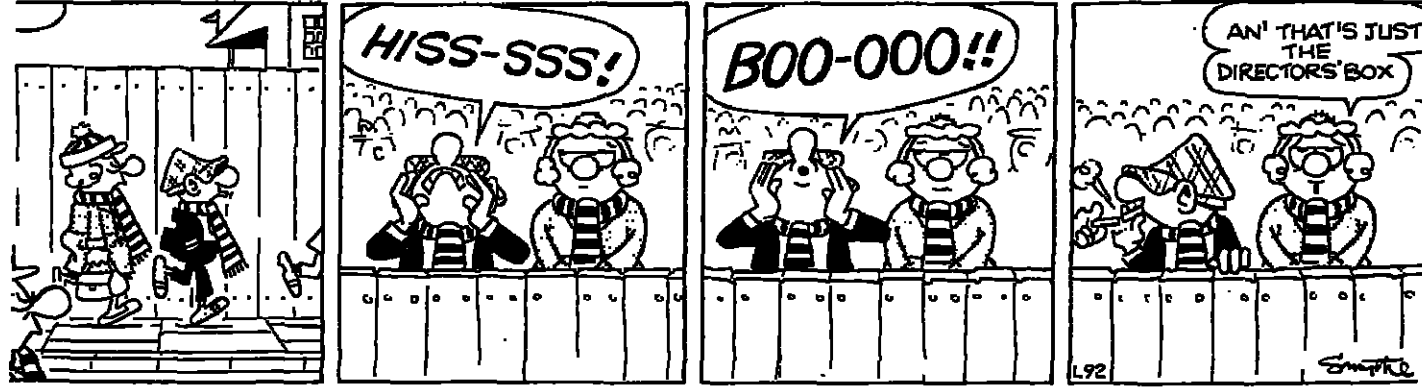


NORWAY
Andreassen

PEANUTS



ANDY GAPP



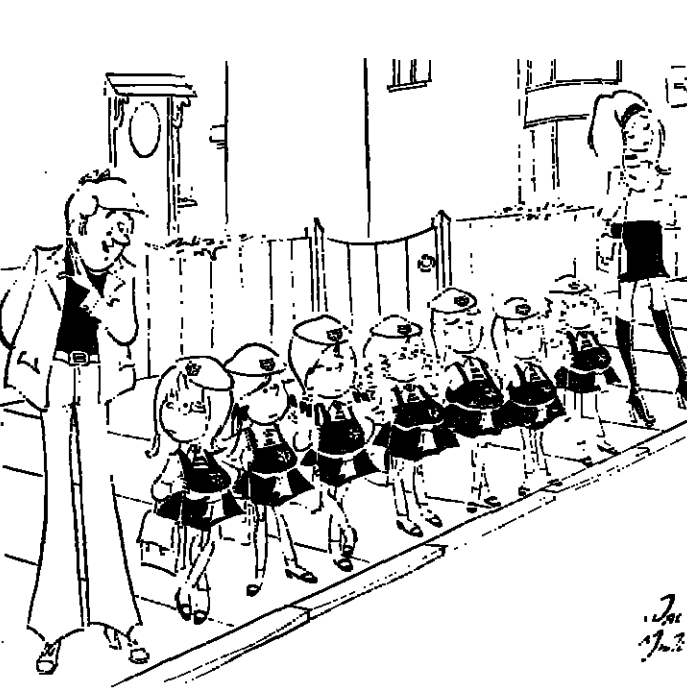
MUTT & JEFF



THE FLINTSTONES

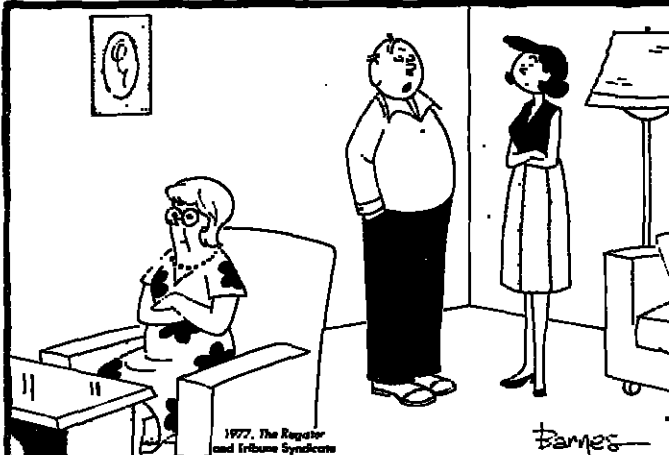


LAUGHS FROM EUROPE



ENGLAND
White

THE BETTER HALF. By Barnes



WORLD RECORDS

The world's fastest printer is the Radiation Inc. electro-sensitive system which records up to 30,000 lines each containing 120 alphanumeric characters per minute. It can thus print the wordage of the whole Bible (773,692 words) in 65 seconds. This is 3333 times faster than the world's fastest typist.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1977 by Chicago Tribune

North-South vulnerable.
South deals.

NORTH
♠ A J 4 3
♥ A 5 2
♦ 3 2
♣ A Q J 3

EAST
♠ K 10 9 8
♥ Q 8 7
♦ Q J 10 8 5
♣ 6

SOUTH
♠ Q 7 5 2
♥ 10
♦ A K
♣ K 10 9 8 7 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♠.

In these inflationary days, the cost of insurance is spiraling everywhere—except at the bridge table. The price for insuring a contract has remained at about one trick.

North-South bid well to their best spot. North's hand became exceedingly strong once the double fit was located, so he jump raised opener's suit, bypassing three no trump. South took the opportunity to show his diamond control, and North needed no further encouragement to contract for slam. He chose to bid six clubs, to confirm his excellent support while leaving his partner the option of returning to six spades if South thought that would be a better spot. Fortunately, South saw no reason to prefer the major suit.

West led his top diamond, and declarer was very happy

with his contract. There were no losers in trumps, hearts or diamonds. To make his slam, he needed only to hold his spade losers to one. If the suit divided 3-2, there

would be no problem in accomplishing that goal, so declarer set out to see what he could do to circumvent a 4-1 spade break.

Declarer won the king of diamonds, crossed to the ace of hearts and ruffed a heart. He drew trumps in two rounds, ending in dummy.

and ruffed the table's last heart. Next, he cashed the ace of diamonds to eliminate the red suits.

South led a low spade and finessed the jack. When this held the trick, declarer could

claim the contract. He did not make the error of cashing the ace of spades in an effort to make an overtrick. Instead, he made the safety play of a low spade from

dummy. His foresight was rewarded when East failed to follow. Declarer simply ducked, allowing West to win the trick with the nine. West was well and truly

endplayed. If he exited with a red suit, he would give declarer a ruff-and-sluff. If he returned a spade,

he would concede two more tricks in that suit to declarer's combined ace-queen-tenace. Either way the slam was assured.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HILTE
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
TINew
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
PRETOY
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
MARROD
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

Answer: A "CROSSWORD" (Answers tomorrow)

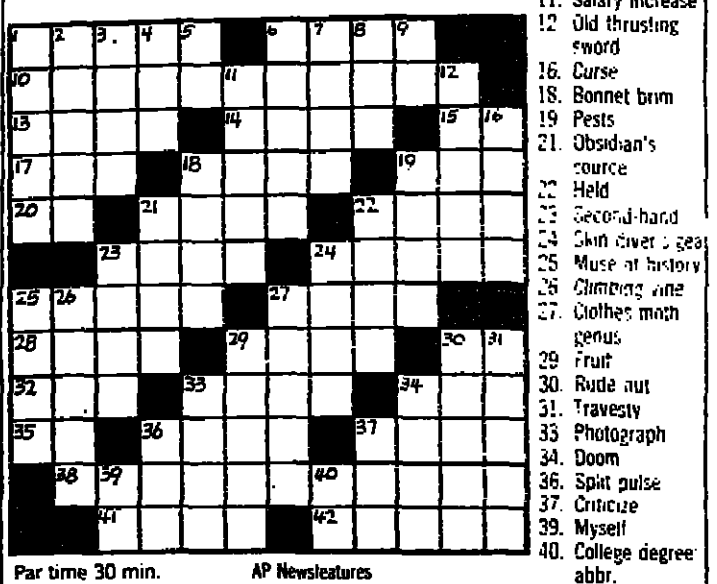
Yesterday's Jumbles: USURP TONIC MOTHER BENUMB
Answer: What everyone in the doctor's waiting room seemed to be suffering from—"RUMOR-TISM"

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1. Farewell
6. Official Turkish residence
10. Interchange
13. Presage
14. Handout
15. In this manner
17. Dint
18. Toll road
19. Unsorted Indian
20. Type measure
21. Defeat
22. Puzzle
23. Track of a vessel

DOWN
24. Bring
25. Spice
27. Upsets
28. Italian coin
29. Money factory
30. That man
32. Rhodesian P.M.
33. Devises
34. Perplex
35. Forward
36. Eat sumptuously
37. Peacock
38. Combined
41. Patron saint of sailors
42. Anoint

SOLUTION OF SATURDAY'S PUZZLE
1. Emerged
2. Villain
3. Frosted
4. One, in Bonn
5. Out of bed
6. Parts of eggs
7. Culmination
8. — Cruces
9. Pronoun
10. Salary increase
11. Old thrusting sword
12. Curse
13. Bonnet brim
14. Pests
15. Obsidian's source
16. Held
17. Second-hand
18. Skin diver's gear
19. Muse at history
20. Climbing vine
21. Clothes moth genus
22. Fruit
23. Rude out
24. Travesty
25. Photograph
26. Doom
27. Spirit pulse
28. Critique
29. Myself
30. College degree abbr.



Par time 30 min. AP Newstestures

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION		BBC RADIO		AMMAN AIRPORT	
Channel 3 & 6:	9:30 Reportage	05:00 News: 24 hours	15:00 Radio Newnet	Arrivals:	Departures:
6:00 Quran	7:30 News in Hebrew	05:30 The World Today	15:15 News: Commentary	6:30 Bangkok, Bahrain	8:30 Beirut
6:30 Cartoons	7:45 Varieties	06:00 News: Press Review	16:15 The World Today	7:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi	8:30 London
6:30 Star family Robinson	8:30 Phyllis	06:30 News: 24 hours	16:45 The World Today	8:30 Beirut	8:30 Athens
8:00 News in Arabic	9:10 Rich man, poor man	07:00 News: 24 hours	17:00 Sports Round-up	18:10 Agaba	8:45 Beirut (SEA)
	10:00 News in English	07:45 Portraits from the Past	17:30 News: News about Britain	11:00 Doha (GA)	11:20 Frankfurt
		08:00 News	17:45 Sports Round-up	11:15 Doha, Kuwait (BA)	11:45 Athens (GA)
		08:15 Short Story	18:00 News: News about Britain	11:45 Kuwait (KAC)	12:15 London (BA)
		08:30 News: U.K. Press Review	18:30 The Farming World	12:45 Madrid, Athens	12:45 Cairo
		08:30 News: U.K. Press Review	19:00 Outlook: News Summary	12:50 Brussels, Rome	13:00 Beirut (SEA)
		08:45 Look Ahead	19:15 The Farming World	13:00 Amsterdam	13:00 Jeddah
		09:15 The World Today	19:45 The Farming World	13:30 Athens	13:30 Abu Dhabi
		09:30 News: U.K. Press Review	20:00 News: 24 hours	13:30 Kuwait	13:30 Bahrain, Bangkok
		09:45 Look Ahead	20:30 News: 24 hours	13:30 Frankfurt	13:30 Cairo
		10:15 The World Today	21:00 The Farming World	13:30 Cairo	
		10:30 Five Stations to Istanbul	21:15 The Farming World		
		11:00 News: News about Britain	21:30 The Farming World		
		11:15 News: Yesterday	21:45 The Farming World		
		11:30 Sports International	22:00 News: The World Today		
		12:00 Radio Newnet	22:15 News: The World Today		
		12:15 The Farming World	22:30 News: The World Today		
		12:45 Sports Round-up	22:45 Sports Round-up		
		13:00 News: 24 hours	23:00 News: Commentary		
		13:30 In Our Time 1915-1936	23:15 Nature Notebook		
		14:15 Report on Religion			
RADIO JORDAN		VOICES OF AMERICA		USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
7:30 Arts and hobbies	16:00 Old favourites	05:00 The Breakfast Show	16:00 Special English: News, Feature: Science in the News, News Summary	Ambulance (government)	Tel. 78111
8:30 Arabic series	16:30 Easy listening	05:30 News: 24 hours	06:00 GMT: News: 18:30 Regional and Local News Summary, 08:30, 08:45 and 05:30 GMT: 18:30	Fire headquarters	36391-4
	17:00 Mail bag	06:30 News: 24 hours	06:30 News: 24 hours	Police station	32288
	17:45 Pop session	07:00 News: 24 hours	07:00 News: 24 hours	First aid, fire, police	19
	18:00 News summary	07:30 News: 24 hours	07:30 News: 24 hours	Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	36391-2
	18:30 Arab in history	08:00 News	08:00 News	Municipal water services (emergency)	322111-3
	18:45 Arab in history	08:15 Short Story	08:15 Short Story	Police headquarters	38141
	18:50 Sign it again	08:30 News: U.K. Press Review	08:30 News: U.K. Press Review	Nights, working patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	322111-3
	19:00 News reports	08:45 Look Ahead	08:45 Look Ahead	Airport information (AIA)	32288
	19:30 Sign off	09:15 The World Today	09:15 The World Today		
	19:45 News	09:30 News: U.K. Press Review	09:30 News: U.K. Press Review		
		09:45 Look Ahead	09:45 Look Ahead		
		10:15 The World Today	10:15 The World Today		
		10:30 Five Stations to Istanbul	10:30 Five Stations to Istanbul		
		11:00 News: News about Britain	11:00 News: News about Britain		
		11:15 News: Yesterday	11:15 News: Yesterday		
		11:30 Sports International	11:30 Sports International		
		12:00 Radio Newnet	12:00 Radio Newnet		
		12:15 The Farming World	12:15 The Farming World		
		12:45 Sports Round-up	12:45 Sports Round-up		
		13:00 News: 24 hours	13:00 News: 24 hours		
		13:30 In Our Time 1915-1936	13:30 In Our Time 1915-1936		
		14:15 Report on Religion	14:15 Report on Religion		
EMERGENCIES		Cultural Centres			
Doctors:	Pharmacies:	American Centre (USIS)	Tel. 61329		
Amman:	Amman:	British Council	36391-8		
Niswan Nader (36435)	City (36735)	French Cultural Centre	37000		
Said Abdul Kader Rashid (73500)	Firyal (62018)	Goethe Institute	41285		
Irshid:	Irshid:	Soviet Cultural Centre	42285		
Hani Ghannayeh (2676)	Almud Jahnani (2676)	Amman Municipal Library	36111		
Almud Jahnani (2676)	Bunlat Shajrawi (30338)				
Zarga:	Zarga:				
Taxis:	Taxis:				
Tel. (2021)	Tel. (2021)				
Tower (21029)	Tower (21029)				
Rayman (21541)	Rayman (21541)				
Nabla (60005)	Nabla (60005)				

OUT AND ABOUT

CLUBS
First Wings Hotel, Jabal Al Luweibdeh, Tel. 22163/4. Choice of THREE set menus daily for lunch, and a la carte. Open 12-3 p.m. and 7-12 p.m. Specialty: steaks.

QUICK MEAL
Restaurants for broasted chicken and light snacks. Take home, lunch or dinner. Jabal Amman, First Circle. Tel. 21063, Jabal Al Luweibdeh, Hawuz Circle. Tel. 30646. Jabal Al Hussein, near Jerusalem Cinema, Tel. 21781. Also in Zarqa and Irbid.

Captain's Cabin
The fashionable restaurant for you. Grillings Bank Street. Tel. 2197. AQARA. Open for lunch & dinner. Specialty Italian cuisine. Live music and dancing.

CHINESE RESTAURANT
First Chinese restaurant in Jordan. First Circle, Jabal Amman, near the Abiyah School or CMS. Tel. 38968. Open daily from noon to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Also take home service—order by phone.

THE DIPLOMAT
First Circle, Jabal Amman. Tel. 25592. Open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Restaurant, coffee-shop, snack bar and patisserie. Oriental and European specialties.

For advertising in above columns contact "Sout Wa Soura" Tel. 38869. Open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

Basque group demands ransom for kidnapped industrialist

MADRID, May 23 (Agencies) — The politico-military branch of the Basque separatist organization ETA has demanded a 1,000 m. peseta (\$14,285,000) ransom for the release of Basque industrialist Javier de Ybarra, who was kidnapped on Friday, the daily Informaciones reported today.

Supreme Court rejects appeal in Watergate aides' case

WASHINGTON, May 23 (R). — The U.S. Supreme Court today refused to hear appeals by former high-ranking Nixon aides Mr. John Mitchell, Mr. H.R. (Bob) Haldeman and Mr. John Ehrlichman against prison sentences imposed for their role in the Watergate cover-up. The decision means the three men will have to serve the 30 months to eight years sentences each was given after being found guilty on Jan. 1, 1975, after a three-month trial.

Brussels hotel fire claims some 16 lives

BRUSSELS, May 23 (AFP). — At least 16 people died and 40 others were injured in the weekend fire which gutted the Duc de Brabant Hotel here, it was announced today.

The bodies of six British tourists have been recovered, but about 10 more bodies were still buried in the rubble. Rescue workers had to shore up the ruins of the 10-storey hotel before they could remove the remaining bodies.

Two hundred guests were staying at the hotel when the fire broke out late Saturday.

De Guiringaud: Polisario's 6 hostages not mercenaries

MAIDSTONE, England, May 23 (R). — French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud yesterday warned the Polisario front that six French hostages taken by it three weeks ago must not be used as political pawns.

In a statement to journalists, the minister, who was attending an informal meeting of Common Market foreign ministers at Leeds Castle near here, said that in an interview on Saturday the Polisario front admitted for the first time that it was holding the six French citizens.

Quoting reliable sources, the newspaper's Bilbao correspondent said the ETA branch had sent a message demanding the ransom to the family of Mr. de Ybarra.

The group also sent a political communique during the night to a radio station and a newspaper in San Sebastian.

The report said contact had already been established between the de Ybarra family and the ETA.

In previous kidnappings, the Spanish government said it opposed any negotiations between the kidnappers and the families involved.

In the last kidnapping in the Basque country of businessman Angel Berazadi, two Spanish policemen were shot dead by Basque separatists after being sent on a mission to France to prevent negotiations for Mr. Berazadi's release.

The businessman was executed by his kidnappers on April 8, 1976.

Meanwhile, the Cifra news agency reported here today that all Basque political prisoners held in Spanish jails signed requests to be released into exile, accepting a government offer made on Saturday.

Mrs. Genoveva Forest, charged with complicity in the December 1973 assassination of Prime Minister Luis Carrero Blanco, also signed an exile request, the agency said.

Mrs. Forest, a psychiatrist and wife of author Alfonso Sastre, allegedly served as a contact for the Basque organization ETA, which police blamed for the Carrero Blanco murder.

The exile requests were presented to the premier's office today by Basque lawyer Ignacio Etxebarria.

Yesterday, five Basque prisoners sentenced to death by a military tribunal in Burgos in 1971 were released from detention and deported to Belgium.

Their sentences had been commuted under the late Gen. Francisco Franco.

Yesterday, Senora Dolores Ibaruri, the legendary "La Pasionaria" of the Spanish civil war, made her first speech since returning to Spain from 38 years' exile.

To a cheering and chanting audience at a Communist Party rally in Bilbao, she proclaimed her allegiance to the Soviet Union.

In contrast, party General Secretary Santiago Carrillo did not mention the Soviet Union in his speech to the rally, but said the party was devoted to democracy and freedom.

Over 10,000 Communists and other sympathizers gave an emotional welcome to the 81-year-old Senora Ibaruri as she appeared on the podium in this Basque capital.

In her 10-minute speech, Senora Ibaruri, President of the Spanish Communist Party, three times mentioned the Soviet Union, where she lived from the end of the civil war in 1939 until her return from exile earlier this month.

She wiped away tears when she talked of the Spanish exiles who died fighting with Soviet troops during World War II. Her own son, a lieutenant in the Soviet army, was killed fighting the Germans at Stalingrad.

Investigators said the fire may have been sparked off by a cigarette. The fire swept quickly through the building, leaving only the front wall of the four-storey hotel still standing.

Several survivors managed to escape by tying sheets together and climbing down, although some were injured when their burns made it impossible to cling to the makeshift ladder.

None of the injured appeared to be in critical condition today. All suffered from burns or smoke inhalation.

Moroccan troops end Zairean mission

RABAT, May 23 (R). — Morocco said yesterday that the task of its 1,500-man force fighting rebels in Zaire's Shaba Province is over.

Foreign Minister Ahmad Laraki, who is visiting Zaire, said in a statement reported here by the official news agency MAP that the Moroccan mission there had ended.

The Moroccan contingent was flown to Zaire last month after initial successes by the rebels, who the Zaire government says invaded from Angola with Cuban and Soviet help. Angola, Cuba and the Soviet Union denied the charges.

Zairean troops and their Moroccan allies have pushed steadily westward in recent weeks on the line of the Benguela Railway.

The Zaire news agency AZAP reported on Saturday they had captured Dilolo -- the point where the railway crosses the border into Angola.

Foreign Minister Laraki, in the statement reported by MAP, did not announce any timetable for the Moroccans to return home.

He said: "The liberation of Dilolo, which allows Zaire to recover its territorial integrity, ends the mission which King Hassan the Second of Morocco had assigned to the contingent of the Royal Armed Forces." (See related feature on page 2).

Pravda says USSR experts in Sudan were "recalled"

MOSCOW, May 23 (R). — The Russians responded yesterday to Sudan's announced expulsion of Soviet military advisers with a Pravda article saying they had been "recalled" because of a growing anti-Soviet campaign by the Sudanese authorities.

The article in Pravda, the Communist Party newspaper, was the first reference in the official press to the expulsion by Sudan last week of all 90 Soviet advisers serving with its army.

"The organs of mass communication and even Sudanese government officials are attempting to accuse the Soviet Union of interfering in the internal affairs of African states," Pravda said.

This was "crude falsification of the facts" and did not serve the interests of the Sudanese people, it added.

Sudan yesterday followed up

its expulsion of Soviet military experts by asking the Soviet Union to reduce the number of its embassy staff in Khartoum, the Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported.

The request was conveyed to the Soviet ambassador to Sudan by Dr. Francis Deing, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, the agency said.

Relations between the two countries deteriorated following an abortive coup in Khartoum last July.

Non-Arabs gain most at Islamic conference

TRIPOLI, May 23 (R). — Representatives of 38 Islamic countries yesterday urged all Moslem states to join the Arab boycott of Israel.

A week-long conference in this Libyan city ended with more achieved for non-Arab Moslem nations than for Islam's Arab heartland.

Pakistan, Turkey, Bangladesh and Indonesia all made political gains at the conference, which decided to set up a permanent body to settle disputes between Moslem states by peaceful means.

The Arab role in the annual meeting was scaled down this year by the absence of Egypt and Sudan, whose presidents are hostile to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. Iran also stayed away.

Most active among the Arabs were the Saudi and Libyan delegations, but only six of the 20 Arab states were represented by ministers.

The lower level of Arab participation gave added scope to other major Moslem countries like Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Turkey.

Indonesia, backed by Malaysia, worked hard in the lobby to moderate demands by Filipino Moslem rebels of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). Their leader, Nur Misuari, had prepared a speech calling for sovereignty and independence for the Moslems of Mindanao.

By the time he delivered it these demands had been softened to a call for "freedom" -- less embarrassing to the Philippines' Moslem neighbours.

In return the MNLF was given observer status at the conference and the ministers accused Manila of "shirking its responsibilities" towards last December's Tripoli agreement to end the rebellion.

The final resolutions also called for continued efforts to mediate in the Philippines conflict by a four-party Islamic mission composed of Saudi, Libyan, Somali and Senegalese representatives.

The moderating hand of Malaysia and Indonesia was also behind the decision not to give a public hearing at this stage to Pattani Moslem rebels from southern Thailand.

But they gained some useful publicity in the lobby and the chance that at next year's

Young: U.S. pledges to push S. Africa to black majority rule

LUSAKA, May 23 (R). — Black American envoy Andrew Young today pledged that the United States would use "methods at our disposal" to push South Africa to black majority rule.

It seemed to be Mr. Young's most explicit declaration so far during his African tour in support of majority rule in South Africa, bastion of white supremacy in the southern part of the continent.

Mr. Young chose to make the statement during a brief visit to the black front-line state of Zambia, where he flew last night from Johannesburg.

"We will pursue a policy of transformation of Southern Africa itself towards majority rule and we will be using methods at our disposal to push the South African government in that direction," Mr. Young said.

Zambian President Kaunda was clearly delighted, but he made clear he did not share emphasis put by Mr. Young on peaceful change -- hinting that he might send his forces into Rhodesia, if Rhodesian forces cross the border to hit black nationalist guerrillas.

After saying today he was happy with what Mr. Young had said, he told reporters: "I believe we are able to defend ourselves. If (Rhodesian Premier Ian) Smith believes in the

hot pursuit policy, we must also believe in it."

Dr. Kaunda also said he had reliable word that Mr. Smith had three times tried to resign but Prime Minister John Vorster of South Africa had prevented him from doing so -- so as to "deliver him" to the West in a later political deal.

The Zambian leader said: "I have information that on three occasions Smith has wanted to resign, but Vorster has said 'you jolly well stay there until I have solved my Namibia (South West Africa) problem.'"

Dr. Kaunda said reliable sources had told him that Mr. Vorster wanted Western backing for his plans for Namibia.

Mr. Young, U.S. chief delegate at the United Nations, was due in Sudan later today on a two-week tour of Africa and Europe.

The U.S. diplomat, asked if he feared an expansion of Soviet influence in Africa, said the only Soviet influence he had noticed in the continent was rhetoric.

"We are not in competition to destroy," he said of U.S. policy towards Africa.

Major Western powers want changed so as to include U.N.-supervised elections -- and that, if he got it, he "will be able to deliver Smith to them."

As far as Namibia (South West Africa) was concerned, Mr. Mondale said the U.S. wanted to see a "neutral administration" set up to run the country in a transitional period when U.N.-supervised free elections would be held in which all concerned parties including SWAPO (South West Africa Peoples Organisation) would be able to participate.

For Bangladesh, with a vast and hungry population, the conference was an opportunity to press for more aid from the Islamic World.

The ministers approved a general agreement on economic, technical and commercial cooperation, which calls for the transfer of resources through joint ventures and investment by the wealthier Moslem states.

For Pakistan there was acceptance in the conference communique of Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's charges that outside interference had helped stir up trouble after the disputed elections of last March.

The ministers declared their solidarity with Mr. Bhutto's efforts to "thwart all foreign interference."

There was also criticism in the communique of non-Moslem countries which had failed to endorse last year's conference call for nuclear-free zones in South Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

No countries were mentioned by name.

The conference resolutions on Palestine and Jerusalem reiterated Arab demands for Israeli withdrawal from occupied lands and the creation of a Palestinian state.

In any case discussion of the Middle East here was overshadowed by the Israeli elections and the emergence of the rightwing Likud -- led by former guerrilla Menachem Begin -- as the strongest party in Israel.

Palestinian representative Farouk Kaddoumi remarked that "now we shall have a terrorist for a prime minister."

Eritrea, the Ethiopian province where rebels are fighting for independence, was passed over in the final documents with a polite diplomatic formula.

The Libyan conference hosts, who want Eritrean secessionists to rally to the new revolutionary regime in Addis Ababa, met vigorous opposition from Somalia.

The Somali delegate not only wholeheartedly endorsed the Eritrean demands for independence, but called on fellow Moslems to back his country's claim to Ogaden, in eastern Ethiopia.

New Yorkers stage another Sunday of anti-Concorde demonstrations

NEW YORK, May 23 (R). — Police helicopters, car break-down crews and coast guard patrol boats stood by yesterday to handle a demonstration by opponents of the supersonic Concorde airliner which the organisers promised would shut down Kennedy Airport.

Announcing their intention to "arrive by land and sea," protest leaders said the demonstration would be the largest since the campaign to keep the Anglo-French Concorde out of New York began last year.

Their tactics were to paralyse traffic around Kennedy Airport by sending fleets of private cars to join a slow-moving motorcade on roads to New York's main airport.

Other demonstrators planned to pull alongside the shorefront near the airport in private boats adorned with protest banners.

Extra police were called in and a police spokesman said: "We only have one aim, to keep traffic moving." Four coast guard vessels were assigned to patrol the shorefront.

Participants in the car demonstration were advised not to carry banners or switch on headlights. Indications were that police would take a tougher line than in previous demonstrations and would make arrests after issuing a warning to crawling motorists.

Air travellers last weekend were delayed by up to an hour because of the demonstration.

The tempo of demonstrations by Concorde opponents in the neighbourhoods around the airport is accelerating with only a few days to go before Concorde's debut here.

Since a judge overturned the New York ban on Concorde, Air France has announced plans for a Concorde test flight into Kennedy on May 31 with regular flights starting next month.

The airline took out an advertisement in yesterday's New York Times juxtaposing a picture of Concorde with the 1937 front page story of Mr. Charles Lindbergh's Atlantic crossing.

"Merci Monsieur Lindbergh for showing us the way," it said.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

* HAMBURG, West Germany, May 23 (R). — The head of the West German Federal Detectives' Association has been detained in connection with inquiries into an East European intelligence service, a spokesman for the Hamburg branch said yesterday. The spokesman said association Chairman Rolf Grunert was detained Saturday night at his home in the Hamburg suburb of Blankenese and will appear before an investigating judge later. Informed sources at the Federal Prosecutor's Office in Karlsruhe said investigations of Herr Grunert had been going on for some time.

* CAIRO, May 23 (AFP). — Djibouti Prime Minister Hassan Gouled will tour Arab countries starting with Egypt after the French Territory of Afars and Issas becomes independent on June 27, the weekly paper October reported here yesterday.

* MOSCOW, May 23 (AFP). — Soviet leaders today approved a new draft constitution which is to be submitted to the Supreme Soviet. Tass news agency reported. Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko were members of the Soviet Constitutional Committee which met today to give its approval to the draft. The text will be published in the press so "that the population can become acquainted with it and suggest amendments." Radio Moscow said. The present "Stalinist" Constitutional dates from Dec. 5, 1936.

* COTONOU, May 23 (AFP). — Benin's military leadership has launched a nationwide debate on a draft constitution to turn the country into an African-style Marxist-Socialist state. Head of state Lt.-Col. Mathieu Kerekou set the ball rolling yesterday when he outlined details of the draft constitution's 160 articles and 11 chapters. These cover politics, economy, state authority, local government, government powers, citizens' rights and duties and the identifying features of the Benin Republic.

* CAIRO, May 23 (R). — Herr Franz Josef Strauss, Chairman of West Germany's Christian Social Union, said here yesterday that no final settlement of the Middle East crisis was expected this year. Herr Strauss was addressing an airport press conference after an eight-day visit to Egypt during which he had talks with President Anwar Sadat and other Egyptian officials. He said his talks with Egyptian officials dealt with the Middle East crisis, the Israeli elections, developments in Africa and economic issues.

* THE HAGUE, May 23 (AFP). — The Dutch Socialist Party is tipped to become the Netherlands' dominant political group after next Wednesday's legislative elections for the 150-seat lower house of parliament. The Socialists are now associated with the Christian Democrat Party in a four-year old coalition government. Public opinion polls give the Socialists 48 seats in the next parliament against their present 43. The Christian Democrats who now hold 48 seats will go down to 47 according to poll estimates.

* LONDON, May 23 (AFP). — Big Ben, the world's most famous clock, again betrayed its reputation for precision and reliability today by stopping at 09:25 hours. Last summer its two fingers remained motionless for 22 days because of metal fatigue. Today the Environment Ministry said technicians were examining it but had not found why it had stopped. But two hours later, at 11:30, Big Ben restarted, a drop of oil on a cog had proved to be the answer.

U.S. to up its UNICEF contribution by 25%

MANILA, May 23 (AFP). — The United States today called for greater action to meet the "human needs" of the world's children, and offered to increase to \$25 million its contribution to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The American offer, subject to congressional approval, was made by Dr. Peter G. Bourne, Special Assistant on Health to President Jimmy Carter, at the opening session here of the annual UNICEF Executive Board meeting.

The Philippine delegation, in its part, called on the 30-nation board to declare "a decade for the child in Asia" as a step towards enhancing international efforts at meeting the basic health needs of Asia's children.

The board is meeting to consider projected assistance totalling \$113.5 million to more than 50 countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Central and South America.

Dr. Bourne said that as a demonstration of U.S. commitment toward a strong UNICEF, President Carter would soon ask Congress, in addition to the \$20 million already requested, to increase the U.S. contribution by an additional 25 per cent.

Dr. Bourne read out a message from Mr. Carter commending the UNICEF for placing emphasis on "the human needs of children" at its Manila meeting.

The presidential assistant said the world could no longer tolerate the continued poverty of the approximately one billion people who live in absolute poverty, and warned this "can only lead to political and social upheaval that inevitably will lead to further human suffering."

Dr. Bourne urged the meeting to concentrate its efforts in tackling the problems of malnutrition and providing comprehensive maternal and child health services.

In some countries 50 per cent of the children still die before they reach five years of age, Dr. Bourne noted.

Authorities also estimate 10 million children under 5 years in developing countries suffer from severe protein and calorie deficiency, which another 80 million suffer only slightly less grievously.

Dr. Bourne added that less than 10 per cent of the more than 80 million children born each year were being immunised against preventable diseases.

Orient Express ends its last journey

ISTANBUL, May 23 (R). — The Orient Express, the world's most glamorous train, arrived in Istanbul's Sirkeci Station for the last time yesterday, five hours and 38 minutes late and sadly looking its age.

Two dozen passengers from Britain, the Netherlands and the United States made the last trip -- disheartened enthusiasts of the 94-year-old queen of the railways.

The days of plush and leather panelling and cordon bleu meals that contributed to the train's aura of mystery and romance ended with World War II.

Yesterday's Orient Express consisted of one sleeping car, which made the trip from Paris, plus ordinary second-class carriages which joined it on the way.

A crowd of several hundred gathered on the platform here as travellers drank a last champagne toast and sang Auld Lang Syne.

The last Orient Express passengers made the 63-hour trip purely because, like Mount Everest, it was there to be experienced.

Standing sadly on the platform when the Orient Express arrived was 67-year-old Mr. Fausto Vianello, in the smart brown uniform and peaked cap of the Compagnie Internationale des Wagon-Lits. He joined

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